

**CONNECTOR SYSTEM FOR A DOCKING STATION
OF A PORTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 The present invention is embodied in a connector system for a docking
station of a portable computer. The connector system includes a peripheral
connector array that is removeably coupled, both mechanically and electrically, to a
docking station or port replicator. Since the connector array is removeably coupled
to the port replicator, the connector array can be maneuvered to allow easy and
convenient connection of appropriate peripherals to the connector array. Also, the
port replicator preferably has a recessed area for storing the connector array after
15 electrical connection of appropriate peripherals to the connector array. This
reduces clutter and tangling of the cables connected to the peripherals. In addition,
the connector array can be of various sizes and shapes and can be designed to
interface with specific portable computers. Further, the connector system of the
present invention can be upgradeable in that the port replicator can accept
20 upgraded or newer connector arrays that have additional or advanced connections
for peripheral devices.